



California Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Toxic Substances Control

Site Mitigation Program

FACT SHEET: CalSites Database

CalSites Help Desk
(916) 323-3400

March 2000

Introduction

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) maintains an automated database which contains information on properties in California where hazardous substances have been released, or where the potential for a release exists. This database, referred to as "CalSites," is used primarily by DTSC's staff as an informational tool to evaluate and track activities at properties that may have been affected by the release of hazardous substances. The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide useful information to persons who want to know more about CalSites, who want to review a CalSites report, purchase CalSites-generated documents or the CalSites database on CD-ROM.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The CalSites Database is undergoing a system upgrade to provide access to CalSites data via the Internet and improve the data entry and reporting process for staff. Placing CalSites data on the Internet (on DTSC's newly designed web page www.dtsc.ca.gov) will occur in phases. The first phase will include a list of sites where land use restrictions have been recorded. (DTSC is still in the design phase and more information will become available throughout the year.) Assembly Bill 871 (Chapter 430, Statutes of 1998) requires DTSC to maintain and update a list of all properties with land use restrictions that were recorded pursuant to the California Health and Safety Code, sections 25200, 25200.10, 25202.5, 25222.1, 25229, 25230, 25355.5, and 25398.7. Recorded land use restrictions are land use covenants which can specify requirements, limit the use of real property, and affect the title to property. This list, as well as other lists generated by CalSites, will continue to be available by contacting the **CalSites Help Desk at (916) 323-3400**.

Background

In 1991, the CalSites database was developed by DTSC as a project management tracking system. CalSites assists DTSC staff, the public, the Legislature, federal, state and local agencies by providing a brief history of cleanup activities, contaminants of concern, and scheduled future cleanup activities. As a result, CalSites data has been used for many

purposes by other governmental agencies and the private sector. Because at times CalSites data has been misused, from 1993-1996, DTSC undertook an extensive reevaluation of the database. Over 22,500 erroneous entries were deleted during the CalSites Validation Program (CVP). A DTSC Fact Sheet dated June 1996 discusses the CVP in detail.

The types of properties in our CalSites database are categorized as: Annual Workplan, Backlogged Properties, Certified/Delisted Sites, No Further Action, Preliminary Endangerment Assessment in Progress, Preliminary Endangerment Assessment Required, Removal Action Required, Expedited Remedial Action Program (SB 923), Voluntary Cleanup Program, Deed Restricted Properties, and Referred Properties.

Definition of CalSites Terminology

To understand these major categories, their definitions and the status codes used in the CalSites database are discussed below.

Annual Workplan (AWP) indicates a confirmed release site where DTSC is actively working to remediate, either in a lead role or support capacity. These confirmed sites are generally high priority, high potential risk, and include military facilities, state "funded" or Responsible Party (RP) lead, and National Priority List sites.

Backlog (BKLG) indicates a confirmed release site that DTSC is not currently investigating or remediating. These BKLG sites generally become AWP sites when staff and/or financial resources are available. Priorities for placing a site on BKLG versus AWP are based on the degree of long-term threat posed by the property. Before placing a property in the BKLG, DTSC ensures that all necessary actions have been taken to protect the public and the environment from any immediate hazard posed by the property. Often there are no parties available to fund the full cleanup of these properties.

A **Certification (CERT)** designation indicates that the property was previously identified as a confirmed release site and subsequently certified by DTSC as having been remediated satisfactorily under DTSC oversight. Properties which have cleanups in place but require Operation and Maintenance (O&M) are also listed in the certification category. A **"COM" (Certified, Operation and Maintenance)** designation on a certified property means that all planned activities necessary to address the contamination problems have been implemented. However, some of these remedial activities (such as pumping and treating contaminated groundwater) must be continued for many years before complete cleanup will be achieved. Prior to the COM designation, all institutional controls (e.g., land use restrictions) that may be necessary to protect public health must be in place.

A **Deed Restriction (DEED)** designation is used for properties where a deed restriction has been recorded. The purpose of recorded land use restrictions is to protect the public health and safety on contaminated land or the surrounding property when there is residual contamination on a property. Recorded deed restrictions (also known as land use restrictions or land use covenants) can specify requirements or limit the use of real property and affect the title to property. Deed restrictions are recorded at a county recorder's office

so that they will be found during a title search of county records. Deed restrictions entered into or required by DTSC “run with the land,” i.e., are binding on current and subsequent property owners, and remain in effect until they are formally removed or modified.

A **Delist Property (DLIST)** designation is used for those cases where further extensive investigation and analysis of contamination at a confirmed release site revealed that the property conditions do not pose a significant public health or environmental hazard. The property is, therefore, removed (delisted) from the AWP list of sites. Properties designated as DLIST differ from CERT or COM sites in that no cleanup was necessary.

No Further Action (NFA) properties are those that had a possibility of a release that DTSC determined after additional investigation, generally a Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (initial assessment), that the site does not pose a problem to the environment or the public health.

Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA) is the first step in the investigative process. A **PEA Required (PEAR)** designation indicates that DTSC has determined that additional resources should be expended to determine if there is a hazardous substance release and if so, determine if it poses a threat to human health or the environment.

A property with a **PEA in Progress (PEAP)** designation means that DTSC is currently conducting a PEA on the property.

Removal Action Required are non-AWP properties where through a Preliminary Endangerment Assessment, DTSC has determined that a small removal will likely result in the full cleanup of the property.

Expedited Remedial Action Program (ERAP) is a pilot program limited to 30 sites which must meet specified criteria. These are confirmed release sites that are being actively worked on by the RPs with oversight of the cleanup by DTSC.

Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) are properties with either a confirmed or unconfirmed releases and the project proponents have requested that DTSC oversee investigation and/or cleanup activities and have agreed to provide coverage for DTSC's costs.

Referrals (REF) are properties which were determined not to require direct DTSC Site Mitigation Program action or oversight activity and have been referred to another state or local regulatory agency. In many referral cases, it should be noted that DTSC has not confirmed an actual release of hazardous substances. The three current status codes used for referrals are **REFRW** (Regional Water Quality Control Board); **REFRC** (DTSC-Hazardous Waste Management Program); and **REFOA** (other agencies, such as the Integrated Waste Management Board, or a county agency).

Services Available To The Public

The following services are available:

- C Providing all CalSites' AWP, BKLG, ERAP and VCP lists which include name, address, city, zip code, status and are sorted alphabetically by County name.
- C A list of sites where deed restrictions have been recorded pursuant to site investigations and cleanups under DTSC's Site Mitigation Program's oversight is now available. This list provides the street address, or if a street address is not available, an equivalent description. This list will be updated as new deed restrictions are recorded.

AWP

(Fiscal Year 99-00 list has 268 sites.)

BKLG

(Fiscal Year 99-00 list has 68 sites.)

ERAP

(Fiscal Year 99-00 list has 11 sites.)

VCP

(Fiscal Year 99-00 list has 155 sites.)

DEED

(Fiscal Year 99-00 list has 113 sites.**)

(\$12.00 for all lists, \$6.00 for each individual list.*)

* All data estimated as of March 2000.

** List is free.

PROFILE REPORTS

- C Providing Profile Reports generated from the CalSites system. Profile Reports provide summary property information. Please note that AWP and ERAP sites and VCP properties will have the most information (\$10.50 per Profile Report).

SHORT SUMMARY REPORTS

- C Providing Short Summary Reports based on a particular zip code or county reflecting key name, key address, city, current status and the corresponding CalSites identification number. Description of specific site information is not included. The cost is \$20.00 per zip code and \$60.00 per county. (The county report for Los Angeles costs \$80.00 due to its volume.) Any specific requested database sort or format change will be provided at an additional charge of \$5.00 per change.

CALSITES CD-ROM

- C The CalSites database is now available on CD-ROM. The CalSites CD-ROM stores the data in two formats: ASCII or dBASE. **The CD does not contain a computer program to run the database and therefore the data must be imported into a software program.** (ASCII files are fixed columns with test fields and can be imported into a software program such as Microsoft ACCESS or EXCEL. The dBASE files are read by Ashton Tate's dBASE software).

The CD-ROM contains property-specific information in eight files:

- 1) **EXTSITE.TXT** identifies general property description information
- 2) **EXTNAM.TXT** identifies the property's key name and alternative name
- 3) **EXTADDR.TXT** identifies the property's alternative address, city and zip code
- 4) **EXTBACK.TXT** contains narrative of what caused the release or potential for release of a hazardous substance
- 5) **EXTACT.TXT** contains all projected activities to be completed at a property and quantities removed or treated
- 6) **EXTCOM.TXT** contains comments by DTSC staff about the property
- 7) **EXTIDS.TXT** contains the DTSC property identification number and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) identification number
- 8) **EXTSPEC.TXT** contains special program information, such as whether the property is funded by a federal grant. Properties identified as Annual Workplan (AWP) properties will have the most information because they are properties where DTSC has confirmed that a release has occurred or a potential for a release exists, and is currently overseeing or performing remedial activities.

Due to the time involved in developing the CalSites CD-ROM, DTSC only produces the CD-ROM using current data on a quarterly basis (i.e., January, April, July and October). Interested parties who wish to purchase the CalSites CD-ROM should contact the CalSites Help Desk two weeks prior to the quarterly development date, so that a sufficient number of CD-ROMs will be produced **(\$135 each)**.

ZIPLIST

- C Providing a hard copy of the CalSites Ziplist which contains all properties by zip code including name, address, and status generated from the CalSites database **(\$100.00 per copy)**.

APPOINTMENTS TO REVIEW DOCUMENTS

- C The CalSites Help Desk will provide access (via scheduled appointments) to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLIS) List, (which identifies the Federal Superfund sites and sites of Federal interest) or the CalSites Ziplist. Copies of these lists are located in the Site Mitigation Program at DTSC Headquarters in Sacramento.

Special Requests

If a specific report is requested that involves various database searches, data manipulations, and report development, DTSC may provide 'special' ad hoc reports (if determined feasible) at a cost of \$42.50 per first hour or portion of each additional hour. (Format changes or specific database sorts may be provided at an additional charge of \$10.00 per change.)

Government Entities

Federal, state, and local entities will generally receive all services and information free of charge unless significant amounts of data are requested. Requests from government entities must be verified prior to disseminating any information or service. Verification may be provided by letter or FAX with government seal.

Purchasing and Expediting

Persons requesting documents or CD-ROMs must contact the CalSites Help Desk. Requests for property inquiries should include complete property name and address with zip code to ensure quick and accurate database search.

- C When documents or CD-ROMs are requested, the CalSites Help Desk will send a letter to requestors which provides the cost and the instructions for making payment. Requestors must send a copy of this letter to DTSC's Accounting Office at P.O. Box 806, Sacramento, California 95812-0806, along with a check or money order made out to the "Department of Toxic Substances Control." The CalSites Help Desk will release the requested documents or CD-ROMs after DTSC's Accounting Office has processed the payment. If you have any questions regarding the process for ordering documents or for tracking your request, please contact the CalSites Help Desk at (916) 323-3400.**
- C The Site Mitigation Program/CalSites Help Desk cannot accept payment for requested documents or CD-ROMs.**
- C Checks sent to the CalSites Help Desk will be returned thus delaying delivery.**

DTSC will expedite requests by returning documents purchased by Federal Express, or Overnight Mail using the purchasers' account number. CD-ROMs are sent by regular mail or by courier service using the purchasers' account number.

Contact the Headquarters Office CalSites Help Desk for information and purchasing CalSites documents or CD-ROMs:

CALSITES HELP DESK

Department of Toxic Substances Control
Site Mitigation Program/CalSites Help Desk
400 P Street 4th Floor (MS HQ-29)
P. O. Box 806
Sacramento, California 95812-0806
Phone - (916) 323-3400
FAX - (916) 323-3700

Each DTSC Regional Office File Room has a set of CalSites Zip Lists and Profile Reports for properties located in its region. These lists are available for public review by contacting the regional File Room Personnel at the phone numbers and addresses listed below:

REGIONAL OFFICES**Sacramento**

10151 Croydon Way
Sacramento, California 95827
(916) 255-3758

Berkeley

700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 200
Berkeley, California 94710
(510) 540-3800

Glendale

1011 N. Grandview Avenue
Glendale, California 91201
(818) 551-2886

Cypress

5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California 90630
(714) 484-5337